

DAILY EVENING EDITION

Unless you have learned that the East Oregonian reaches nearly all the desirable customers, you have a business tooth to cut.

# East Oregonian

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WEATHER FORECAST.

Tonight and Friday occasional rain, cooler Friday; high winds.

## PREPARING TO TAKE CENSUS

To Record Assessment and Population at Same Time in Umatilla County.

ESTIMATED INCREASE OF TWENTY-TWO PER CENT

Next Enumeration Will Be in 1905, Conducted by Assessor Strain, Who Believes the Growth of Population Has Been in the Above Ratio—Upon the State Decennial Census Depends the Representation in the Legislature—Increase in Population Has Not Been Uniform Throughout the State.

County Assessor C. P. Strain, who is also state census enumerator for Umatilla county, estimates that the present population of this sub-division of Oregon is in the neighborhood of 22,000. The government census, taken in 1900, gave the county 18,049. The state census is taken every 10 years, but it falls between the dates set by the government, and thus Oregon has its people counted every five years. Some time during the spring of 1905, Mr. Strain will be obliged to make out the list of persons residing in Umatilla county.

"I believe I shall take the census," he said, "at the same time that the assessment of property is made, and have the same men attend to both things. It is on the state census that the representation of the various counties in the legislature is determined. At the present time we have one senator, one joint senator, two representatives and one joint representative. If our population has increased more rapidly than it has in other counties, we stand a show of gaining more representatives in the legislature."

According to the government census of 1900, Umatilla county stands sixth in the matter of population. Ahead of it are Clackamas, 19,658; Lane, 19,604; Linn, 18,403; Marion, 27,713; Multnomah, 162,167. It is the opinion of Mr. Strain that Clackamas county will show a decided gain in population over the government census, and that Marion county will stand about where it was in the matter of inhabitants. The city of Portland was given 96,000 population, according to the latest government statistics. Conservative estimates, according to Polk's directory now give it more than 125,000. Some persons claim that the population of the town is nearly 140,000. The population of the state five years ago was 412,536. A conservative estimate places it now at more than the half million mark.

### THREE MEN KILLED.

Two Others Badly Injured by Boiler Explosion.

Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 29.—Presley Epping, Frank Dowell and R. G. Hicks were killed, and Roy Hicks and W. Beauchamp were injured, probably fatally, by a boiler explosion in the sawmill plant of Walworth & Neville at Walville, a few miles from this place.

Both Hickses are single, as also are Epping and Beauchamp. Dowell has a family living at Walville.

It is believed the explosion was due to simple carelessness due to the fact that while the plant has been undergoing overhauling only enough power has been used to run the drying kilns and cross-arm factory, and it is supposed the engineer allowed the water to get low by inadvertence or inattention, a mishap much less likely to take place when the boilers and engines are running at full capacity and the engineer and assistants are on the qui vive. This view is the most likely to be correct when it is recalled that the boilers were inspected and O. K'd less than two weeks ago.

The pecuniary damage cannot be less than \$15,000. The loss of life would unquestionably have been much greater had the mills been working full force, which is 100 men. The shut-down for repairs and additions was instituted December 15 and the mills were to have resumed full capacity January 16.

### May Save the Crew.

Patchogue, L. I., Dec. 29.—At 9 this morning a tug succeeded in getting a heavy line to the stranding steamer Drumelzier, which is still in a perilous position. It is believed, however, the crew may be saved with the exception of three, who are believed to have frozen to death since Monday.

### OCEAN RATES ADVANCED.

Lines Operating Between Portland and San Francisco Have Increased Charges.

Portland, Dec. 29.—Beginning the first of the year the freight rates between Portland and San Francisco will be \$2.50 a ton, all companies operating coasters having entered into an agreement to this effect.

Heretofore there has been no regular rate fixed, steam schooners taking freight as low as \$1.75 a ton; the usual figures were \$2. The managers met in San Francisco and decided that a minimum scale should be established. It was held that there is no money in the business carrying freight at \$1.75 or \$2 a ton. This is the last week that shippers will have an opportunity to send goods down the coast at the figures which have prevailed for the year. Wheat is the principal commodity sent south, nearly every vessel taking out from 200 to 500 tons. A couple of cargoes will probably be sent to San Francisco this week at \$2 a ton.

### BISHOP ARRAIGNED.

Attorneys Engaged in Formulating Charges Against Him.

New York, Dec. 29.—Herbert Noble, senior counsel of the presenters against Bishop Talbot left today for Philadelphia to formulate further plans for the arraignment of the bishop of Reading next month. Mr. Noble will confer with Rev. Dr. Botine, chairman of the committee on inquiry, and also have a conference with several presenters.

### Seeking Artesian Water.

La Grande, Dec. 29.—Three artesian wells are now being sunk in the valley near this city, and prospects are bright for a permanent flow of artesian water. One well on the McConnell place, four miles east of the city, is now down 600 feet, and the experts say that water will be found at a depth of 1000 feet. Another is being bored on Peter McDonald's place near Imbler and another still near Affel. In all three places the indications are most favorable for water.

### Dead in His Cabin.

Huntington, Dec. 29.—An unknown man, 30 years of age, and dressed as a laborer, was found dead in an old cabin on the O. R. & N. right of way, five miles west of here last evening. He appears to have died of hunger and exposure. The cabin is used by the O. R. & N. section men as a store house for dynamite used on the tracks and has not been visited for months.

## MILLION ACRES TO BE RECLAIMED

### RAILROADS WILL UNDERTAKE THE ENORMOUS TASK.

In Conjunction With the Government Officials the Burlington and Union Pacific Railways Will Seed Millions of Acres of Hardy Grasses—Dry Land Alfalfa and a Russian Grass Will Be the Principal Crops Sown on the Desert—Entire Western Desert to Be Included in the Scheme.

Omaha, Dec. 29.—The Union Pacific and Burlington railroads, assisted by the United States government, have a new scheme for reclaiming several hundred million acres of arid Western lands without the aid and assistance of expensive irrigation work.

Dr. Elwood Mead, head of one of the agricultural departments at Washington, will represent the government in the deal and is in Omaha now conferring with the general managers of both roads as to details of the work, which will begin in the spring.

The new scheme is based on grasses and a new alfalfa which grows in southern Russia and which requires so little moisture as to exist wherever sagebrush and prairie dogs can live.

Experimental stations will be built along the railroads immediately and from these the surrounding country will be seeded with the new alfalfa. If the scheme is successful hundreds of millions of acres will be added to the tillable lands west of the Missouri river.

### Beckwith Seriously Ill.

Oberlin, O., Dec. 29.—President C. T. Beckwith, of the Citizens' National Bank, which was closed by the Chadwick affair, is today pronounced seriously ill by his physicians. He was found unconscious in his bedroom yesterday as a result of an attack of apoplexy. The attack was brought on by a nervous collapse.

### May Call Off Strike.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 29.—Acting on the recommendation of subordinate the Council, meetings of the Textile unions have been called for tomorrow to consider calling off the strike. The general opinion is that a majority of the unions will declare in favor of ending the strike, which has now lasted 23 weeks.

## REVOLUTION IN POLAND.

Berlin, Dec. 29.—Reports from the Russian frontier of widespread revolutionary outbreaks have occurred. Railroads have been destroyed, bridges damaged and telegraph lines cut. Outrages are also reported in various towns.

In a revolt at Kiel, Poland, many were killed and wounded.

The same condition is reported at Kouzak, where factories were demolished by the rioters. The czar was burned in effigy scores of times.

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## FROM DUNGEONS TO SIBERIAN MINES

Awful Fate of Nihilists Just Released From Secret Dens of Torture.

### RUSSIAN TORTURES HAVE WRECKED THREE LIVES.

Vera Figner, Col. Aschenbrenner and Brast Ivanoff Taken From Secret Dungeons After 20 Years of Unspeakable Cruelties and Are Now Assigned to Salt Mines of the Arctic Circle in Northern Siberia—Three Condemned Nihilists Are Imbeciles, and Have Lost Speech and Hearing Under Their Awful Prison Tortures.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—Three famous nihilists, leaders of the terrorist movement from 1878 to 1884, have just been released from the fortress of Peter Paul after 20 years' solitary confinement. They are Col. Aschenbrenner, Mme. Vera Figner and Brast Ivanoff.

All three have become mental and physical wrecks under the soul-killing effects of the "silent" system of incarceration. For 15 years they have not been permitted to speak.

Though released, they will never regain complete liberty. The clemency of the czar has opened the prison doors only to banish the unhappy trio to a remote village in the extreme north of Russia, within the Arctic circle.

Vera Figner, or Vera Filippova, as she was then called, was a beautiful woman of 27 when she was sent to the fortress. For six years she had been the mainspring of every nihilist movement, and her loveliness and wealth made her one of the greatest of revolutionary powers.

She converted half the troops of the Caucasus to the nihilist side, and Col. Aschenbrenner, then commanding a South Russian regiment, was one of the most powerful of her disciples. Together with five other officers, Col. Aschenbrenner, inspired by Vera Figner, had plotted a revolution to which the whole of the troops were committed.

At the very moment of fruition the plot was betrayed by a renegade nihilist named Degaloff. Degaloff, high in the council of the terrorists, had been arrested. Put under torture he turned informant and became the head man in Col. Soudaikin's secret police.

Then the nihilists seized him, tried him and sentenced him to death. The price of his life was the assassination of Col. Soudaikin, and Degaloff paid it.

In the meantime, Aschenbrenner, Vera Figner, Ivanoff and 11 others had been betrayed. Vera and six officers were sentenced to death, and until today it was believed that penalty had been carried out.

The government, however, followed the precedent of 1872, when Nechaev, the "Father of Russian Terrorism," was also sentenced to death or Siberia, but was confined instead in the "ravelin of Alexis"—the most secret part of the fortress—of Peter Paul—in the hope that nihilist secrets might be wrested from him.

Vera Figner is now a bent, white-haired old woman; Ivanoff is little better than an imbecile, and Col. Aschenbrenner is dumb.

### Union Strikers Sent to Jail.

Indianapolis, Dec. 29.—In the federal court today Judge Anderson sent 15 strikers in the Macbeth lamp chimney factory at Elwood, to jail, charging sentences, for interfering with non-union workers.

## HERMANN IS ALSO SWORN TO SECRECY

Portland, Dec. 29.—After a long, tedious siege of questioning in the grand jury room, Binger Hermann emerged this afternoon, tired, car-sick and seemingly disgusted.

He, like Senator Mitchell, declared he was sworn to secrecy and would not give the reporters enough to bludge a story upon. Hermann was recalled for a few moments after his first appearance before the jury, and on emerging the second time, the look of utter disgust upon the congressman's face was even more impressive than at first.

## INSURING CAAR'S LIFE.

London, Dec. 29.—The czar's life was insured at Lloyd's today for a large sum. It is believed the policy was taken out by Russian bondholders at a premium of 15 per cent for one year. For one week the rate on the czar's life is five per cent.

### Work Abandoned on Variag.

Seoul, Korea, Dec. 29.—The Japanese have abandoned the attempt to raise the Russian cruiser Variag and it is impossible to recommence work before spring.

### Closing in on Port Arthur.

Chefoo, Dec. 29.—The Japanese line at Port Arthur is now much closer to Liaotao mountain as a result of the general attack beginning December 25. Two steamers recently ran the blockade at Port Arthur. One was captured by the Japanese when leaving the harbor.

### SHOT TO DEATH.

A Woman Figures in a Fatal San Francisco Affray.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Edward Bruce Metcalf, a traveling photographer, was shot to death in his room early this morning by a man identified by the victim's wife as Edward Keeley, with whom Mrs. Metcalf had been friendly. Keeley escaped. A divorce suit instituted by the woman was to have been decided today.

She claims she saw Keeley emerging from her husband's room a few seconds after the fatal shot was fired. The Metcalfs are from Auburn, Cal.

### STANDARD OIL CUTS.

"The System" Showing Effects of Lawson's Fight.

Toledo, Dec. 29.—The independent oil men received a severe jolt this morning when the Standard Oil announced a break of 5 cents in Pennsylvania and 3 in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky oils. Operators say the market conditions do not warrant a cut. They say "the system needs the money." By this they mean that Lawson's crusade against the Standard Oil interests has had its effect.

### Next Session at Berkeley.

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 29.—The state Teachers' association today decided to hold the next meeting at Berkeley. James Barr, of Stockton, was elected president.

## TO AMEND STATE GAME STATUTE

### SPORTSMEN MEET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES.

Discussed the Open and Closed Seasons and Made Recommendations, and a Committee Will Be Selected to Draft the Same Into Proposed Laws—The "Bob White" Season Provoked Much Debate—Sportsmen Opposed to All Sales of Wild Game.

Local sportsmen met at the council chambers last night with State Senator C. J. Smith and Representatives W. G. Cole and William Blakley for the purpose of suggesting alterations in the state game laws. The matter of the open and closed seasons on birds and animals was discussed, and a committee consisting of A. D. Stillman, Dr. White and T. W. Ayres, was selected to draft recommendations to be presented to the legislative delegation.

It is the opinion of the sportsmen that the season for hunting buck deer closes too soon. They will recommend that the season open two weeks later and close later.

The season for grouse hunting they believe is too short. They will suggest that it open 15 days later and close at least a month later than at the present time.

The sale of game of any kind at all times should be prohibited, declare the sportsmen.

In the matter of the open season for "Bob White" quail that were "planted" in this country several years ago, there was division. Some hunters were in favor of a closed season until 1907 instead of opening next fall. Others favored an open season of 15 days for the next five years, with a limit of six birds for one day, or 12 in a week.

One sportsman suggested that 50 ducks or geese per man for one day was too much like a slaughter.

### Depeew Will Succeed Himself.

New York, Dec. 29.—Senator Depeew, after a conference with Governor Odell today, announced publicly that it has been agreed he should succeed himself in the senate.

A monster elk, killed in Pacific county, Wash., has been mounted and will be placed on exhibition at the Lewis and Clark centennial.

## CITY COUNCIL IS ECONOMICAL

Discuss Many Plans for Reducing Municipal Expenditures.

TAKES NO DEFINITE ACTION AT THIS TIME.

Proposed to Do Away With the Head of the Street Department, But the Proposition Was Vigorously Opposed and Then Laid Over for a Week—A Petition to Prohibit Bicycle Riding on the Sidewalks at All Times Was Referred to a Committee—Fire Department Makes an Interesting Recommendation.

It was an economical council that met last night. What it would like to do in the way of cutting down city expenses was discussed from all sides, and from several different standpoints. Councilmen Renn and Welles, who with Councilman Ferguson, constitute the street committee, suggested that the street commissioner be "laid off" indefinitely, as there was nothing for him to do.

The condition of the streets was such, said Renn, that there was nothing for Commissioner Brown to do. In fact, that official had worked himself out of a job. Ferguson is not in town, but Wells backed up Renn's statement. Council Murphy opposed the suggestion of the street committee at all. "If Brown is laid off," he remarked, "I would be in favor of stopping all street work."

Upon motion of Councilman Swearingin the matter was laid over until next week.

A petition was read asking the council to prohibit the riding of bicycles at all times on the sidewalks. The matter was referred to a committee.

A petition from the fire department recommended that the salary of the chief be raised from \$10 to \$25 a month, and that his assistants be paid for every fire attended.

The salary list of \$557.50 for the month was approved, and warrants ordered drawn in payment.

Liquor licenses were granted the Oregon Liquor company, Baker & O'g, and J. J. Kelley.

### SWITZLER LOSES CASE.

Sued Northern Pacific for Delivering Horses After Shipment Was Cancelled.

Walla Walla, Dec. 29.—In the superior court last evening Judge Brents overruled the demurrer of the defendant in the case of J. B. Switzler versus the Northern Pacific Railway company.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff to recover damages from the defendant. Early last year Switzler sold a band of horses to a man who ordered them shipped to St. Paul. In payment for the animals the purchaser gave Switzler a check on a St. Paul bank.

While the horses were being carried east by the Northern Pacific railway company, it was discovered that the check given to Switzler was not good.

Switzler, it is alleged, then notified the railroad company to stop the transit of the horses and gave explicit instructions not to deliver the horses to the man who presumed to purchase them.

These instructions, Switzler alleges, the railroad company disregarded and carried the horses to St. Paul and delivered them. Switzler then brought suit for damages.

### Looking for an Heir.

New York, Dec. 29.—Edward J. Lawton, son of Jacob Lawton, the millionaire manufacturer, who died at Brooklyn recently, is being widely sought, as the heir to a big estate. Young Lawton went to California several years ago, and is believed still to be somewhere in the west.

### Largest Number of Prisoners.

Walla Walla, Dec. 29.—There are now 721 prisoners in the Washington state penitentiary, the largest number ever confined in the institution before.

### Big Steamer in Danger.

Boston, Dec. 29.—A wireless message from Point Judith states the big Sound steamer Puritan broke a wheel during the night, and is now anchored off the point. A heavy sea is running and great anxiety is felt for the safety of the vessel, which has a heavy complement of passengers.